



Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office

Operations Directorate — Fact Sheet

Department of Defense Search & Rescue Working Group

ISSUE: Department of Defense Search & Rescue (SAR) Working Group

BACKGROUND: DPMO represents DoD representative on the National Search and Rescue Committee (NSARC). NSARC is an interagency committee chaired by the United States Coast Guard. It is responsible for the developing the National SAR plan, coordinates interagency policies and positions concerning SAR matters, and provides a forum for improving SAR effectiveness and standardization. The Committee is composed of representatives of the Departments of Defense, Transportation, Interior, and Commerce, the Federal Communications Commission, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Many of the issues raised during the NSARC meetings affect several DoD organizations. As the DPMO representative to the NSARC, DPMO must ensure all positions it represents at the meetings are fully coordinated throughout DoD and represent the official DoD position.

DISCUSSION: In view of the potential impact NSARC decisions have on the Department of Defense, DPMO formed and currently chairs a DoD SAR Working Group to develop coordinated DoD positions for NSARC issues, and those of its technical sub-groups. To ensure we represent the interests of all affected parties within DoD, the offices of the USD(A&T), ASD(C³I), ASD(SO/LIC), the OSD General Counsel, the Services, and the Joint Staff have designated representatives to the working group. We have asked the NSARC Executive Secretary to forward the proposed agenda for each NSARC meeting to us NLT 30 days before the next scheduled meeting of the NSARC so that we will be able to provide a DoD position at the next meeting. As necessary, we contact the affected working group members (not all may be required for all issues) to notify them of upcoming issues impacting their interests. When necessary, we convene a formal meeting to discuss the issue(s). As a result of this coordination in the working group, DPMO is able to authoritatively represent the official DoD position at meetings of the NSARC.